

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01457 091419Z
ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1457

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, AG
SUBJ: COUNTRY PROFILE

FOR: HESTER, NEA/AFN

1. YOUR DRAFT COUNTRY PROFILE DATED 4/27 IS EXCELLENT. WE HAVE ONLY A FEW OBSERVATIONS.

2. STATEMENT ON PAGE FOUR THAT "ALGERIA"; GROWTH IN GDP HAS BEEN LARGELY THE RESULT OF THE EXPANSION OF ITS ENERGY PRODUCTION" IS WRONG, IF TAKEN TO MEAN THAT ENERGY PRODUCTION HAS GROWN IN REAL TERMS IN RECENT YEARS. IBRD REPORT (PAGE 6) SHOWS NO REAL GROWTH IN ENERGY IN THREE YEARS 1974/76 BUT A 10 PERCENT GROWTH IN REAL GDP EXCLUDING HYDROCARBONS. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT ENERGY PRICES HAVE SKYROCKETED (SINCE 1973) AND INVESTMENT IN FUTURE (RPT FUTURE) ENERGY PRODUCTION (LNG) HAS BEEN HEAVY. GROWTH IN REAL GDP OTHER THAN HYDROCARBONS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED PARTLY TO HIGHER ENERGY PRICES (I.E. IMPROVEMENT IN TERMS OF TRADE AND CONSEQUENT ABILITY TO INVEST MORE), BUT NOT (YET) TO HIGHER ENERGY PRODUCTION.

3. YOUR HANDWRITTEN NOTE ON PAGE FIVE PUTS 1977 TRADE DEFICIT AT 5 BILLION DOLLARS. THIS IS NOT BELIEVEABLE. DO YOU MEAN DINARS?

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4. AS TO THE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS RESULTING FROM FAILURE TO APPROVE EL PASO II AND TENNECO (PAGE 10), WE THINK WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND HAVE SAID SO LOUD AND CLEAR. WHILE WE, OF COURSE, ACCEPT ESTABLISHED POLICY, WE THINK THE PAPER SHOULD STATE THE PROBABLE CONSEQUENCE, I.E. DIFFICULTY OVER THE EL PASO I PRICE.

HAYNES

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